Foreign media entry

*108. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the policy on the question of entry of foreign print media and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) if not, what are the salient points under consideration in this regard and by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The Government still continues to be guided by the Cabinet decision of 1955 with regard to entry of foreign print media which has not been changed or rescinded so far.

Telecast of Horse-Races

*109. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has decided to introduce live and video telecast of horse-races; and

(b) whether there is any bar, under Censor code or otherwise, on telecasting of events involving betting and gambling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, the Code for Commercial Advertising on Doordarshan only prohibits advertisements concerned with betting tips and guide books etc. relating to horse-racing or games of chance.

Confiscation of planes of private airlines

*110. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seized some aircraft of private airlines due to non-payment of various duties;

(b) whether any compromise formula has been evolved without losing any revenue dues; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Four aircrafts of three private airlines had been dittrained under Rule 14 of the Inland Air Travel Tax Rules, 1989 for non-payment of Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT). In one case the airline concerned has paid the amount due and, therefore, the aircraft has been released. In two cases the full amounts have not been paid and, therefore, the aircraft continue to be distrained. In another case the aircraft was released to the airline on its furnishing an undertaking to pay the amount due in instalments along with interest leviable thereon. No compromise formula has been evolved in respect of any of the distrained aircraft.

ब्रिटेन के बेरिंग बैंक के दिवालिया होने से उत्पन्न संकट

*111. श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि ब्रिटेन के बेरिंग बैंक के दिवालिया हो जाने के कारण

देश की अनेकों वित्तीय और औद्योगिक संस्थाएं आर्थिक संकट में घिर गई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां तो इस बैंक के दिवालिया हो जाने के कारण देश की कौन-कौन सी संस्थाएं प्रभावित हुई है तथा उपर्युक्त प्रत्येक संस्था को अनुमानत कितना नुकसान उठाना पड़ा है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने विश्व में इस प्रकार की घटनाओं के घटित होने पर देश के आर्थिक ढांचे को प्रभावहीन बनाए रखने के लिए कोई एहतियाती उपाय किए हैं ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो क्या सरकार निकट भविष्य में इस दिशा में कोई कार्यवाही करेगी और यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में प्रस्तावित कार्यवाही की व्यापक रूपरेखा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम0वी0 चंद्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) से (ङ) हालांकि किसी भी बाजार को, जिसमें सीमा-पार के निवेश संबंधी अन्तःप्रवाहों को अनुमति दी जाती है, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय घटनाओं के प्रभावों से पूरी तरह अलग रखना संभव नही है, फिर भी किसी एक कम्पनी में कंपनी की पूंजी के 5 प्रतिशत की सीमा तक ऐसे निवेशों की सीमा के अनुसार विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशों पर मौजूदा प्रतिबंध विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशकों और अनिवासी भारतीयों की कुल धारिता को किसी कंपनी में पूंजी के 24 प्रतिशत तक सीमित रखने और विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशकों के निवेशों पर ऋण संबंधी प्रतिभूतियों के असर पर उच्चतम सीमा लगाने का उद्देश्य इस प्रभाव को कम करना होता है ।

Registration of cable operators

*112. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for Statewise designation of post offices to register Cable Operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Government have notified the Head Post Masters of the Head Post Offices in the country as the Registering Authority for registering cable operators, under clause (h) of Section 2 of the Cable Television Networks (regulation) Ordinance, 1994. The Department of Posts have designated Head Post Offices to register cable operators circle-wise.

Decontrol of newsprint

*113. SHRI J. S. RAJU:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to decontrol the newsprint; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) News paper Industry is demanding decontrol of newsprint. At the same time, the newsprint industry has also highlighted some problems faced by it due to existing Newsprint Import Policy. Government is seized of entire gamut of issues pertaining to both the industries in all its dimensions and no final decision has been taken so far.